

The great Polish director, Krzysztof Kieslowski, was responsible for a series of programmes based on the Ten Commandments, which was shown on Polish television under communism, and the trilogy of films, the Three Colours, Blue, White and Red, which were an examination of the values of the French Revolution, Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity. These three films, made in French, were set against the background of the end of communism, which features in the films. For Kieslowski, it would seem that the ultimate value is Fraternity, as all his films speak of the mysterious unity of people who hardly know each other. One way of showing this is by the way that major characters in one work, appear as minor characters, briefly glimpsed in lifts or through doorways, in the other works. If we have watched the other works, we know that these people have intensely lived out lives, but through the eyes of other characters, they are merely cyphers.

The Gospels often do something like this, as in Mark where the woman who had the issue of blood for twelve years stops Jesus on his way to raise to life, the girl who had lived for twelve years. What connects the two? Jesus himself. On the feast of the Presentation, we have another presentation of this theme, with Simeon, Jesus, Joseph, Mary and Anna meeting and finding their common bond in the Child Jesus. If you read the account carefully, it doesn't say that Anna speaks to Mary and Joseph. It looks more like she is in her prayers and suddenly she just knows that the Messiah has come. We are told that she was a widow after seven years of marriage. Here prayer, unlike Simeon is not said to be in expectation of the Messiah, but seems more to be with her coping with her loss of her husband. Perhaps Simeon and Anna knew each other, perhaps they merely notice each other, perhaps Simeon found Anna's incessant prayer and constant presence in the Temple a bit irritating. We are not told. What we do know is that from this moment they are united in Jesus. Both too have finally found the meaning of their long lives.

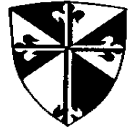
Kieslowski uses coincidence a lot in his films, and lives which parallel each other. In one film, a young woman in Poland dies at an audition to train as an opera singer of a sudden haemorrhage, just as another young woman, played by the same actress, continues her life in a new direction in France. The things that bind us, the connections between the billions of lives lived on this earth are shrouded in darkness. What really connects us is Christ himself. "Through him all things were made". (John 1:3). The feast of the Presentation is the feast of light, of candles, which is why it was traditionally called Candlemas. It is a feast of knowing, a feast of understanding that Christ has come into the world. Because he is in the world, we can begin to understand in him how we are all connected. Touch the Christ, hold him in your arms, and you hold the whole world.

Fr Euan Marley O.P.

The Newsletter of
HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER

Served by the Dominican Order: website <http://www.torch.op.org>

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Sunday Masses	This week	Mass Intentions	Next week
7:30pm Vigil	Fr Isidore	Boyd, Ruane & O'Rourke families	Fr Duncan
8:00am	Fr Euan	Ashberry family and friends, RIP	Fr Isidore
9:30am Family	Fr Fabian	Margaret O'Reilly, RIP	Fr Tony
11:00am Solemn	Fr Leon	For the People	Fr Duncan
7:00pm	Fr Duncan	O'Rourke, Boyd & Ruane families	Fr Fabian

SUNDAYS IN TERM: MASS FOR STUDENTS at 5pm (in the Church).

Sunday Evening Services	2 February	Confessions	9 February
5:45 Rosary	Fr Euan	10:30 - 11:30am	Fr Duncan
6:15 Sung Latin Compline	Fr Fabian	4:00 - 5:00pm	Fr Isidore
6:40 Benediction	Fr Leon	7:00 - 7:20pm	Fr Tony

Entrance Antiphon:	Save us, Lord our God, and gather us together from the nations, that we may proclaim your holy name and glory in your praise.
1st Reading:	Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13
Psalm Response:	How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Ps 145)
2nd Reading:	1 Corinthians 1: 26-31
Alleluia:	Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. At 11:00 - I will adore before your holy temple; I thank you.
Gospel:	Matthew 5: 1-12
Communion Antiphon:	Happy are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Happy are the lowly; they shall inherit the land. At 11:00 - Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called the sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend: Offertory Collection £1096.81; SVP £12.90; St. Martin's Missions £8.12; Holy Souls £6.19; Grenada £12.13. The collection for sick and retired diocesan priests came to £803.50.

Especial thanks are due for the following donations: Grenada £500; SVP £25; St Martin's Missions £125; Holy Souls £25; the Catholic Children's Society £100.

There will be a retiring collection next week for the first instalment of our diocesan quota.

200 Club January draw winners: 1st prize (£150) M Kelly. 2nd prize (£100) P Fitzsimons. 3rd prize (£50) R Dyer. Congratulations!

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

The blessing of throats at the intercession of St Blaise will be given at the end of every Mass today. The prayer for his feast (Feb 3) reminds us that this life has many dangers (flu, choking, cancer) and in communion with St Blaise we ask God for 'peace in this temporal life, by finding the protection of eternal life'.

This week's Feasts		
Monday:	St Gilbert of Sempringham, priest and religious	
Tuesday:	St Agatha, virgin and martyr	
Wednesday:	ASH WEDNESDAY, a day of fasting and abstinence, with the blessing and distribution of ashes at all Masses. There will be NO Exposition and Benediction between the morning Masses today, and there will be an extra Mass at 7:30pm. Also there will be Mass at each of the student chaplaincies - please ring Fr Leon (252 1512) for times.	
Thursday:	Commemoration of our deceased parents. Churches together in Leicester City Centre - Prayer and Worship here at Holy Cross at 12:30pm.	
Friday:	Friday after Ash Wednesday	
Saturday:	Saturday after Ash Wednesday	
Next Sunday's Readings: 1 st Sunday of Lent		
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7	Romans 5: 12-19	Matthew 4: 1-11

Short Lenten Talks on the theme "Deliver us from evil" will take place each Friday in Lent after the 10am and 12:40pm Masses. The first in the series is this Friday, when Fr Euan will speak on "The Devil - Father of Evil". We hope you can stay for some of these talks.

Churches Together in Leicester City Centre are running a Lent Course: 'Just People? The Micah Course' (amongst other things to deepen our theological understanding of God's concern for people affected by poverty, and his desire for a world full of justice, mercy and humility). Every Wednesday in Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday, at the Corn Exchange, at 7:30pm. See the noticeboard.

St Philip's Centre Day Course 'Jesus and the Christian Gospel for All?' How to offer the challenge of the Christian faith to our Hindu, Sikh or Muslim neighbours. It will be led by Canon Dr Andrew Wingate and Revd John McGinley. Saturday 8th March 10am - 3.15pm at St Philip's Church, Evington Road, Leicester LE2 1QN.

Compline, the Evening Prayer of the Church, is sung here each Sunday evening at 6.15pm in the traditional Latin form of the Dominican Rite. Members of the congregation are very welcome to take part, and instruction can be given to anyone who wishes to do this regularly. See Fr Tony or Bernard Marriott.

Dates of Parish Council Committee Meetings, and next Parish Council meeting. Those on Parish Council committees please note the dates of the next meetings:

- ◆ Finance Committee on Monday 25 February at 7:30pm in the Library;
- ◆ Fundraising Committee on Saturday 29 March at 10:00am in the Library;
- ◆ Blackfriars Market organising committee on Saturday 29 March at 10:30am, also in the Library (Blackfriars Market will be held on Saturday 10 May);
- ◆ Liturgy & Music Committee on Wednesday 16 April at 7:30pm in the Library;
- ◆ Next Parish Council meeting on Monday 28 April at 7:30pm in St Clement's Hall.

The Dominican Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 1st to 8th August. This year will be very special at Lourdes as a Jubilee Year is being celebrated to mark the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to St Bernadette. Air travel has been arranged from Stansted and Newcastle with the cost of the week being from £586.

As well as participating in the great events of Lourdes, we will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick and the Stations of the Cross, and there will be the option of excursions to sights in the vicinity. The pilgrimage will have a Dominican flavour, with sung liturgies, talks given by Dominican brothers and a warm atmosphere of Dominican friendship. There will be many opportunities for quiet prayer, and opportunities to relax and enjoy the company of fellow pilgrims. And, of course, the Dominican brothers will always be available to help in whatever way they can. Early booking is recommended. See the noticeboard, and further details are available from Fr Tony, or Fr John O'Connor, OP (St Columba's, 74 Hopehill Road, Glasgow G20 7HH, tel 0141 332 4530), or e-mail to op.lourdes@gmail.com.

The Leicester Theological Society will meet this week on Friday 8 February when Professor June Boyce-Tillman, Professor of Applied Music at the University of Winchester, will speak on "Theology and Music". Details are on the noticeboard.

Services at Holy Cross during the week:

Mass: Monday to Saturday, at 10:00am (with sermon) & 12:40pm.

Ash Wednesday: NO Exposition and Benediction between the morning Masses, and an extra Mass at 7:30pm.

Thursday: Churches together in Leicester City Centre - Prayer and Worship here at Holy Cross at 12:30pm.

On Mondays to Fridays during the winter months the church will be open from 8am until 3:30pm.
